

6.1.2.3 ANNUAL LANDINGS

Unlike the overall trends for the east coast, bay scallops in North Carolina are landed in much greater abundance than sea scallops or calico scallops. The North Carolina bay scallop commercial fishery has had fluctuations in landings throughout its history. In the 1950s, the average annual commercial harvest was 24,708 bushels per year. In the 1960s, the average annual landings increased to 68,406 bushels a year (Figure 6.3). The 1970s showed some decline in commercial landings from the previous decade with an average of 35,680 bushels harvested per year. Improved harvest in the 1980s increased the average annual landings to 45,595 bushels per year. A decline in the late 1980s continued into the 1990s with average annual commercial landings of 14,647 bushels per year. For the past five years landings have been minimal each year ranging from 4,206 bushels in 2000 to less than 30 bushels in 2004. The average annual commercial landings for the last five years (2000-2004) has only been 2,282 bushels per year.

Both the number of dealers and participants have declined. The number of participants involved in the bay scallop fishery each year since 1994 ranged from a high of 284 in 1995 to a low of 1 in 2004. Since 1980, the number of dealers per year ranged from a high of 35 in 1981 to a low of 1 in 2004.

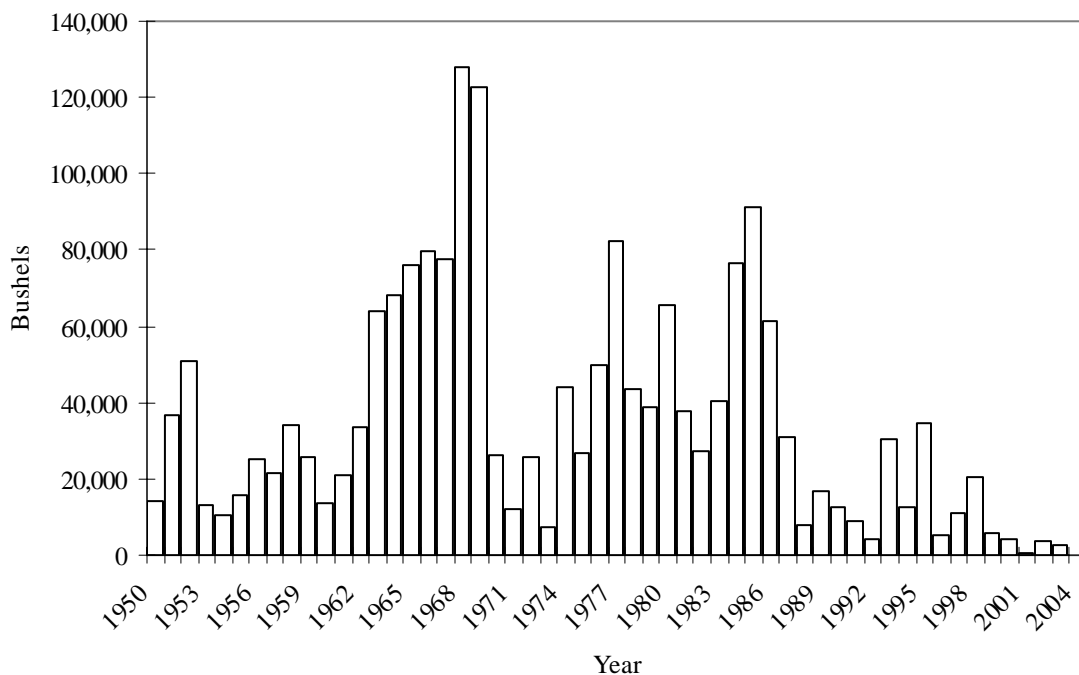


Figure 6.3. North Carolina commercial bay scallop landings (bushels), 1950-2004. DMF Trip Ticket Program.